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**INTERIOR SECURITY**

- A criminal will spend very little time attempting to break into a home that has strong, durable locks.
- Leave doors locked whenever possible.
- Lock windows when going out.
- Use Operation Identification to mark your property.
- Keep an inventory of your possessions. Photographs are an excellent way of recording your property.
- Store credit cards, identification and other valuables in a safe place.
- Use a safety deposit box for seldom used valuables. e.g.: jewelry.
- Avoid leaving house and car keys available to a thief or intruder.
- Do not leave purses or valuables in view of persons at your door.
- Insist on seeing identification from sales and service people.

**EXTERIOR SECURITY**

- Advertise with stickers that you are involved in Neighbourhood Watch and Operation Identification.
- Keep tools, ladders and garbage pails locked away.
- Keep bicycles, barbecues and lawn equipment securely stored.
- Have adequate exterior lighting.
- Trim trees and shrubs that could easily hide intruders.
- Remove obstructions that could hide a thief.
- Don't leave notes on the door.
- Don't have door hinges on the outside, exposed to the criminal.
- Don't leave spare keys hidden outside.

Remember to report crimes or suspicious activities in your neighbourhood to police. They need your help so they, in turn, can help you in crimeproofing yourself and your community.

For more details on crimeproofing measures and community programs in your area, contact your local police department.



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**ONTARIO  
RESIDENTS**

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**It's a  
way of life**

Ontario is among the safest places in the world to live, work and play. To maintain this standard, an effort must be made by homeowners to protect their property and discourage potential criminals.

This pamphlet outlines some of the techniques successfully used by homeowners to reduce opportunities for criminals. By incorporating these ideas into your home security plan and becoming involved in programs such as Neighbourhood Watch and Operation Identification, you and your neighbours are less likely to become the targets of criminals who prey upon residential areas.

Take the extra few moments to see that your home is crimeproofed. A secure home could help prevent you or your family from becoming a victim of crime.

## IMPROVING HOME SECURITY

- Start and maintain an accurate household inventory.
- When moving into a newly purchased home, be sure to have locks rekeyed or replaced.
- Take care of your keys and keep duplicates to a minimum.
- Do not rely on a security alarm system to protect you. They should be used in addition to, not in place of, other security measures.
- Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and other entrances into the house from the garage or basement.
- Exterior doors should be solid core in order to provide strength for the locking system. Seal gaps between door and frame in order to prevent a jimmy bar from being used.
- Install wide angle viewers for exterior doors.
- While proper locks on sliding glass doors are recommended, inserting a fitted piece of wood or metal in the door's lower track improves security.
- Secure basement and ground level windows.

- Secure all possible points of entry such as milk chutes and window-mounted air conditioners.
- Be sure to keep your garage or shed locked. Many times a garage has provided criminals with the tools to break and enter.
- Use curtains on basement and garage windows to prevent others from shopping for goods.
- Timers on radios and lights will help give the impression someone is home.
- House numbers should be in a well lit area and easily visible to neighbours and emergency response units.
- Do not reveal information to unknown people on the telephone or at the door. Be wary of wrong address visitors and wrong number callers.
- Check references of people you employ to work in and around your home.
- List only surname and initials in the telephone book.
- Have adequate insurance coverage on your home and contents.

## VACATION SECURITY

- Inform trusted neighbours of your vacation plans and where you can be reached. Leave a key with them so they can check your house.
- Inform neighbours if you intend to have relatives or friends stay or visit during your absence.
- Have a neighbour park a car in your driveway.
- Have a neighbour pick up your mail, newspapers and handbills.
- Do not order merchandise for delivery while you are away and cancel regular deliveries.
- Ensure all doors and windows are locked.
- Secure or remove valuables and firearms from your home.
- Leave your house with a lived-in look. Use automatic timers to turn on lights and radios.
- Have lawn cut or snow removed while you are away.